

MISSION GROUPS

PROPHECY IN MISSION GROUPS



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INTRODUCTION

Acts 2:17-18

'In the last days, God says, I will pour my spirit out on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.'

Our desire at Mosaic is to gather small communities of people together for mission. In these mission groups, we hope there will be many opportunities to minister, pray and prophecy over one another. The prophetic gift is widely misunderstood though has the potential to encourage and build up the church. We hope this brief guide will help you to develop in your prophetic gifting.

Prophecy is telling something that God has spontaneously brought to mind. It's saying something that God thinks or feels about a situation that is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Another definition would be 'a spirit motivated utterance given for the edification, motivation, up building or correction of the people of God.'

The prophetic gift is a gift and it's for all to seek out. 1 Cor 14:3 tells us *'But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.'*

PROPHECY BRINGS... THE BIBLE TALKS ABOUT TWO TYPES OF PROPHECY:

Healing

Conformation

Builds the church and brings it to maturity (1 Cor 12:28; Eph 4:13-14)

Identifies gifts and callings

Increases faith (2 Chron 20:20)

Vision and leadership to the Church (Eph 2:20; Acts 13:1)

1) High Level

They are the words God breathed out through the various writers in the bible. High level prophecy generates scripture. Since the bible is complete, there is no more high level prophecy

2) Low level

Level of prophecy we experience today. Low level prophecy is fallible and needs to be weighed according to high level – scripture.

There are a number of different types of low level prophecy:

Individual: Acts 21:10-12 where Agabus prophesies over Paul before he returns to Jerusalem to be handed over to the authorities. Corporate: 1 Cor 14:31 where Paul gives some instructions on how to bring prophecies in a group situation.

Predictive: Acts 11:22-30 Agabus prophesies a huge famine which results in the churches collecting money via Paul and Barnabus to support the church in Judea.

Conviction of sin: 1 Cor 14:24 where if people who are not Christians may realise they need to repent from sin if prophesy reveals what's really going on in their hearts.

3) Weighing prophecy:

Scripture makes it clear that not all prophecy is from God or entirely accurate.

1 Cor 13:9-10
'For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.'

There are a number of things we can do to help us figure out if they are from God, in other words, weighing them.

Not too many before weighing them. 1 Cor 14:33 *'For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.'*

Individual prophecies are best brought publicly or at least in a setting where others can weigh them. 1 Cor 14:29 *'Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said.'*

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Weigh according to scripture. Is it Christ honouring? Does it bring confusion?

Who is prophesying?
What's their track record?
1 John 4:1 *'Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.'*

Predictive: Look for confirmations, implied conditions.

Is it accurate? Sometimes it's a 'yes', 'no', or 'maybe'. Remember that prophetic words often confirm what God is doing already.

4) How does God speak to us?

Picture in my mind's eye
Words in my head
Bible verses or characters
Seeing the Spirit of God

5) How do you bring the prophecy

3 stages:

- (i) Hear
- (ii) Interpret
- (iii) Apply

When you pray for someone – keep your eyes open and ask God to speak to you.

How do you grow in the prophetic?

Paul tells us to eagerly desire it in 1 Cor 14:1 *so pray for it. It is a gift and is given to those who desire it.*

Take some risks. The gift doesn't come in a polished completely developed package. Faith is usually key in growing in the gift. Rom 12:6 *'We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.'*

The biggest hindrance to the prophetic is fear. Many people don't want to bring a false prophecy, or mislead people. They may fear rejection or even 'missing the moment.'

The basis of your prophecy should be the knowledge that God loves you and that the prophetic is a gift. This helps to overcome personal inadequacy and the 'fear of man'. 1 John 4:18-19 *'There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.'*

Purity is key, especially sexual purity. Matt 5:8 *'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.'*

Receive correction and feedback.

Learn from someone who is more advanced in the gift and pray for an impartation of the gift.

Persevere

Listen to God's voice regularly. Ecc 5:1-2 *'Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. Go near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools, who do not know that they do wrong. 2 Do not be quick with your mouth, do not be hasty in your heart to utter anything before God. God is in heaven and you are on earth, so let your words be few.'*

Consistently be open to the Holy Spirit. 1 Sam 10:6 *'The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you in power, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.'*

Don't do it in isolation. It is not the pursuit of lone rangers but functions as part of the Body and for the Body. *'And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers...'* 1Cor 12:27.

Your motive is to be love and the prophecy should always be brought in love. 1Cor 14:1 *'Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.'* Jesus models this when he showed care and consolation to the women caught in adultery in John 8:3-4.